



DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)



“Public Health Emergencies: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response” Mobile Education Team: MASL D309017 (E-IMET)

Background: Public health is a significant part of the overall strategy for disaster response throughout the world. There is no event that so severely tests the adequacy of a nation's public health infrastructure as the occurrence of a sudden natural or manmade disaster. An initial rapid needs assessment and tailored robust public health response are key for a society to effectively manage and quickly recover from disasters. This entails integrated public health systems and purposeful planning processes at the local, national, and regional levels. Optimal disaster response requires civilian and military cooperation. Civilian and military organizations have unique responsibilities for establishing effective disaster response and public health systems. The goal of the training is to strengthen host nations' core capacities to prepare for and manage public health emergencies, natural or manmade, and to augment regional response to disasters.

Summary about Program Scope: The "Public Health Emergencies: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response" program combines seminars in minimal international standards, environmental health, epidemiology, rapid needs assessment, and disease surveillance with practical applications. Lecture topics address the civilian-military collaboration in the context of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines for complex emergencies. Over 50 percent of the program is devoted to practical experiences, which develops the core capacities for public health emergency response. The objectives are to 1) increase collaboration/cooperation between military and civilian public health entities in times of disasters; 2) identify minimum public health international standards for emergency response per Sphere Project Handbook; 3) adapt and conduct the IASC Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) tool/process in crises responses; and 4) identify and apply World Health Organization (WHO) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) principles for effective surveillance programs in disasters, improving compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005).

Course Duration: 5 days; **Class Size:** 45 students, maximum; **How Offered:** Conducted in the host country by a Mobile Education Team (MET).

Intended International Audience: Mid- to Senior-level personnel: military and civilian public health/preventive medicine personnel, other medical personnel, and emergency management planning and response personnel.

Points of Contact: Respective Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron (AFSAT) Country Program Manager and Defense Institute for Medical Operations Program Manager, Claudette Hudson at (210) 292-0955, e-mail: alicia.hudson.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

*“Today, I urge all nations to join us in meeting the WHO’s goal of making sure all nations have core capacities to address public health emergencies in place by 2012.
That is what our commitment to the health of our people demands.”*

-President Barack Obama, address to the United Nations General Assembly, September 22, 2011